

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-534

22 July 2025

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

Perineal Cleansing Prior to Birth:	Tap water	Sterile water	Other (please specify)	None
1a. At your Trust, what is used to cleanse the vulvo-vaginal area when a spontaneous vaginal birth is imminent?	X			
1b. What is used to cleanse the vulvo-vaginal area when an instrumental delivery is planned?	X	X		
2. Cleansing at the time of Episiotomy: In the event of performing an episiotomy during a spontaneous vaginal birth, what cleansing solution is used immediately beforehand? (Please select none if cleansing prior to an episiotomy is not mandated within Trust guidelines)				X
3. Cleansing Prior to Suturing: 3.a What cleansing solution is used prior to suturing following a spontaneous vaginal birth? 3b. What cleansing solution is used prior to suturing following an instrumental vaginal birth?		X X		

4. Post-Suturing Cleansing: What cleansing solution is used after suturing has been completed for: a. Spontaneous births b. Instrumental births				
		X		
	X	X		
	X	X		

5. Use of Adjunctive Products (e.g. Medical-Grade Honey, Flaminal etc): Does your Trust recommend or routinely provide any specific topical product(s) (e.g., medical-grade honey, Flaminal, or similar) for the care of perineal trauma? If so, please specify the product(s) used and outline your policy (e.g., used for all women with any perineal trauma, or only for women meeting certain clinical criteria).	Yes: Recommends but does not supply (please specify)	Yes: recommends and provides (please specify and outline policy)	No X
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6. Monitoring of Perineal Wound Referrals: Does your Trust routinely collect data on the number of women who are referred back into services due to concerns about perineal wound healing (excluding routine OASI follow-up)?	Yes	No X
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7. Specialist Perineal Wound Clinics: If your Trust offers a perineal wound clinic, or if women are seen postnatally in maternity assessment units with perineal wound concerns, are any products recommended to support wound healing (excluding antibiotics where indicated)?	No Patients are seen in OASI clinic if 3 rd degree tear or more significant, but for any other perineal trauma there isn't a specific clinic and they would be seen either through triage, gynae, community midwives or GP's depending on severity and postnatal period that they	Yes: please detail
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	present. There aren't any specific products that are recommended.	
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This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust